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GSU View

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Office of Marketing and Communications
Governors State University

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A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



June 1, 2018

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SPECIAL EDITION

In its final meeting of the historic 2017–18 academic school year, Governors State University's Board of Trustees on May 16th celebrated the graduation of the university's first-ever freshman class and the award of tenure to fifteen faculty members. The board also took several steps to strengthen the institution's resurgence from the state's financial crisis.

Setting the stage for the week long commencement festivities, GSU Board Chair Patrick Ormsby said, "Following a year of resurgence, we have much to celebrate." He then acknowledged the dedicated service of Student Senate President Justin Smith who served for two years in that role, was a member of the first freshman class, and was named this year's Lincoln Laureate. Justin was also selected as one of the 2018 commencement speakers for the FC14 class. Later in the meeting a resolution was passed in Justin's honor.

Student Trustee Linda Coleman also received congratulations from the board for earning her Masters of Arts degree in communication and training. Trustee Coleman has been re-elected to a second term while she pursues her doctorate degree at the university.

Declaring this year's theme, "resilience", President Elaine P. Maimon offered congratulations to faculty, staff, and students for demonstrating resiliency in pulling through the budget crisis while welcoming its first freshmen. President Maimon said GSU "stayed true to its mission and its values" and "implemented our principle that putting students first is not only educationally the right thing to do, but it's the best business plan."

The meeting concluded with board approval for a 2018–19 preliminary budget; underwriting services for the sale of bonds, which will help pay for two new roofs; and a possible salary increase for non-negotiated employees.

Fifteen Professors Awarded Tenure



An unusually large number of faculty members were awarded tenure upon the recommendation of Interim Provost Beth Cada and President Maimon. In her memo to the Board, President Maimon explained why the group was so large. "The sizeable number under consideration this year is the direct result of a budget realignment in FY 12 to direct funds from replacement and adjunct appointments to full-time, tenure-track faculty to prepare for the admission of first-year students in 2014."

The following faculty members will be promoted to Associate Professor, effective August 16, 2018:

College of Arts and Sciences

- *Ben Almassi*, Division of Arts and Letters
- *Leanne Cambric*, Division of Arts and Letters
- *Natalia Ermasova*, Division of Arts and Letters
- *Jayne Goode*, Division of Arts and Letters
- *Joon-Won Shin*, Division of Science, Mathematics, and Technology
- *Angela Thompson*, Division of Science, Mathematics, and Technology
- *Jing Zhang*, Division of Science, Mathematics, and Technology

College of Health and Human Services

- *Darrin Aase*, Department of Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health
- *Joseph Day*, Department of Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health
- *Shirley Spencer*, Department of Nursing
- *Serena Wadhwa*, Department of Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health

College of Business

- *Chun-Wei Chang*, Division of Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship
- *Ujvala Rajadhyaksha*, Division of Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship
- *Michael Williams*, Division of Accounting, Finance, MIS and Economics

College of Education

- *Xiaobo She*, Division of Education

2018–19 Preliminary Operating Budget Approved and Underwriting Services Retained

The board approved a preliminary operating budget to maintain university operations from July 1 through October 12. The final budget, pending state funding at recommended levels, will be approved at the October meeting.

The board also approved a contract for underwriting services with Mesirow Financial, Inc., a leading independent financial services firm based in Chicago, to participate in the planning, implementation, marketing, and sale of revenue bonds and/or certificates of participation. The resulting funds will be used for the university's most pressing deferred maintenance projects, including a roof replacement for buildings C and E.

Ormsby said the idea of borrowing money isn't ideal. "But it's a necessary action and the right thing to do for our students."

Non-Negotiated Salary Increases

Upon recommendation of President Maimon, the Board approved salary increases for GSU's non-negotiated employees at an amount equal to that of the university's negotiated employees.

The salary increase will be 2%, if the state appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 19 is at or above the FY15 level. The increase will be 0.7%, if the state appropriation is below the FY15 level.

Repairs to Family Development Center HVAC Upgrades, New Roofs Approved for Buildings C and E and Energy Management System Technical Support

The board approved the hiring of McCauley Mechanical Construction to upgrade the heating system at the university's Family Development Center, which provides child care, early Head Start, state Preschool for All and state Preschool Expansion programs for pregnant women and children from six weeks to 12 years.

The project will replace the boiler, pumps, and piping in the center's hydronic piping system, which circulates both chilled and heated water throughout the facility.

The board also approved the replacement of large sections of the 25-year-old roofs in the C and E wings. Although the roofs had been patched and repaired over the last few years, replacement is necessary. The bond sale will help pay for the permanent replacement.

Delta Building Technologies will help ensure the university building automation comfort control systems are operating effectively and efficiently campus wide.

Delta will train university engineers, upgrade software, oversee remote diagnostics, as well as emergency response service.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?

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